exhibitions etc; offer of scholarships to each other's nationals; encouragement of tourism and facilitating travel between the two countries etc.

(c) Article XIII of the Cultural Co-operation Agreement provides that a Joint Commission will be established comprising 3 representatives from each side and will meet at least once every 2 years alternatively in New Delhi and Dhaka. The Joint Commission is responsible for, among other things, periodical review of the working of the Agreement in the two countries.

Safeguard of Ancient Heritage of Chattisgarh area

3156. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to a news item appeared in Times of India dated 10th June, 1990 to the effect that despite Government's clear directives, the famous ancient treasures of the country continue to find its way out of the country specially from Chattisgarh area;

(b) what corrective steps Government propose to take to safeguard ancient heritage of India; and

(c) whether customs staff would also be given suitable training as also other watch and ward staff as also Intelligence Services in this delicate and difficult job?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESSOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government of India has taken the following preventive measures to safeguard the ancient heritage of India and to check thefts of antiquities:

1. Enforcement of Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972, which *inter-alia provides* for the following:

(a) Compulsory registration of certain categories of antiquities (sculptures in all media, paintings and illustrated and illuminated manuscripts) with the Registering Officers;

(b) Registering Officers to be informed regarding movement of such registered antiquities;

(c) Dealing in antiquities to be restricted to licensed dealers;

(d) Restriction on export of antiquities.

2. In addition, Armed Guards have been posted in some of the important centrally protected monuments and museums under the control of the Archaeological Survey of India, besides tightening of watch and ward arrangements and appointment of Security Officers, Sculpture-sheds to house the loose sculptures antiquities etc. safely and new site museums to display the antiquities at the site itself have been constructed.

3 In the year 1977 India has ratified the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Cultural Properties. The Convention *inter alia* provides that the contracting parties would tape steps for preventing illicit import, into their territories of stolen cultural properties and for tracing and restoring such stolen properties to the countries concerned. The rights of the contracting parties under the Convention are, however, prospective to be signing of the Convention and not restrospective.

4. An Antique Cell has been opened in Central Bureau of Investiga-

tion for investigation into cases of thefts and loss of antiquities.

5. Steps have already been initiated for documentation of loose sculpture, paintings, illustrated manuscripts etc.

6. Archaeological Survey of India has posted its officers at important international sea-ports and air-ports in India to help the customs authorities in preventing illegal export of antiquities by identifying objects which are antiquities. Further, Expert Advisory Commitees have been set up in important towns in India to examine the objects meant for export in order to find if any of the objects is an antiquity in terms of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972.

7. Coordination has been maintained between Archaeological Survey of India, Central Bureau of Investigation, National Crime Records Bureau, State Police, State C.I.D., Customs, check-posts etc. for prompt reporting of crimes, criminals, theft of cultural properties and smuggling of objects.

(c) Such training courses are organised as and when necessary.

Requirement of white printing paper in Andhra Pradesh

3157. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1532 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st August, 1990 and state:

(a) what is the estimated white printing paper required in Andhra Pradesh for the academic year 1990-91; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government for timely supply of paper to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) Based on the projected student enrolment figure for the year 1990-91 and on the assumption that old books would not be used, the requirement of white printing paper for the State of Andhra Pradesh is estimated to be about 17,982 MTs.

(b) The existing scheme does not contemplate that the entire requirement of white printing paper would be supplied at concessional rate, Department of Education has also issued necessary instructions to the Hindustan Paper Corporation to put in all possible efforts to effect supplies as per allotments made.

Cases filed against Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in High Courts

3158. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of court cases filed by teachers against Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in different High Courts in the country during the preceding two years;

(b) what is the number of cases related to Bhubaneswar region and what are the grievances in each of the case;

(c) whether the responsibility of driving teachers to court in Bhubaneshwar region has been fixed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) and (b) 31 and 33 cases were filed by teachers against Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in different High Courts of the country ending December, 1988 & 1989 respectively, out of which 2 & 1 cases were filed by teachers in the High Courts against the Kendriya